



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

October 25, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

**Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Appropriations Bill (H.R. 3058)**

On October 20, 2005, the Senate passed H.R. 3058, the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, and HUD Appropriations bill. Prior to passage, an amendment by Senator Bond (R-MO) to restrict the use of Federal funding in the bill for eminent domain activities that primarily benefit private economic development activities was approved by unanimous consent. The amendment does not apply to projects where eminent domain is employed only for a public use or the removal of blight. Public use is defined as a mass transit, railroad, airport, seaport or highway project or a utility project including energy, communication, water and wastewater-related infrastructure or other structures designated for use by the general public which have common-carrier or public utility functions which are subject to government regulation and oversight. The amendment applies only to FFY 2006.

The House passed its version of the bill on June 30, 2005. Funding levels for HUD programs of County interest in the Senate and House bills are compared in the attached table. Both bills contain similar FFY 2006 funding levels for Section 8 Housing contracts and vouchers, and reject the Bush Administration's proposed "Strengthening America's Communities Initiative" to transfer Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other community development programs into a new block grant that would have been funded at a significantly lower level. The Senate bill funds CDBG at \$3.767 billion, which is \$110 million below the House bill and \$343 million below the FFY 2005 funding

level. Senators Coleman (R-MN), Leahy (D-VT), Feinstein (D-CA) and several other Senators offered a floor amendment to increase CDBG funding, which was withdrawn, after a point of order was raised against it.

Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (S. 397)

On October 20, 2005, the House passed S. 397 (Craig, R-ID), a bill which would prohibit civil liability actions, including any pending lawsuits, in Federal and state courts against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, and importers of firearms and ammunition. The bill specifically would exclude from liability protection anyone who knowingly sold or transferred a firearm for use in a crime of violence or drug trafficking, or who knowingly violated Federal or state laws applicable to the marketing or sale of firearms if the violation resulted in harm. Liability protection also would not apply in cases in which the proper use of a firearm resulted in physical injury, death, or property damage due to a defect in the firearm.

The bill also includes a child safety lock provision requiring all handguns to be sold with a secure gun storage or with safety devices designed to prevent unauthorized or accidental access to a weapon. In addition, it would ban the manufacture or sale of armor-piercing ammunition unless it is intended for government use, for export only, or has been approved by the Department of Justice for testing and experimentation. The Senate passed S. 397 on July 29, 2005, so the bill now goes to the President, who said he will sign it into law. Similar legislation died in the 108th Congress. However, with Republicans gaining four Senate seats in the November 2004 election, Senate Democrats lacked sufficient votes to block S. 397 this year.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MT:jm

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist

**FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2006 FUNDING LEVELS
FOR THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) PROGRAMS
(in millions)**

PROGRAMS	Enacted 2005	President 2006	House¹ 2006	Senate² 2006	Conference 2006
Community Development Block Grant (Formula Grant) ³	\$ 4,110	\$ 0	\$3,877	\$3,767	
Section 8 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (Vouchers)	14,766	15,845	15,631	15,636	
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance (Contracts)	5,298	5,072	5,088	5,072	
Section 8 Administrative Fees	1,250	1,295	1,225	1,295	
Public Housing Operating Fund ⁴	2,438	3,407	3,600	3,557	
Public Housing Capital Fund	2,579	2,327	2,600	2,327	
Homeless Assistance Grants	1,241	1,440	1,340	1,415	
HOME (Formula Grant)	1,785	1,727	1,790	1,793	
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	282	268	290	287	
American Dream Downpayment Initiative	50	200	50	50	
Brownfields	24	0	24	15	

Footnotes

- ¹ In H.R. 3058, the FFY 2006 Transportation/Treasury/HUD/Judiciary/District of Columbia Appropriations Bill, as passed by the House on June 30, 2005.
- ² In H.R. 3058, the FFY 2006 Transportation/Treasury/Judiciary/HUD Appropriations Bill, as passed by the Senate on October 20, 2005.
- ³ The President's proposed FFY 2006 Budget would consolidate CDBG and 17 other programs into a \$3.7 billion Strengthening America's Communities Initiative that would be administered by the Department of Commerce.
- ⁴ Much of this increase is because a nine-month rather than 12-month funding cycle was used in FFY 2005.